



RCA Amateur Radio Club

Indianapolis, IN



ARRL Affiliated Club
www.w9rca.org

SEPTEMBER 2023

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th, 6:30 PM AT NORTH SIDE EVENTS, FORMERLY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, 2100 EAST 71st, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

AUGUST MEETING SUMMARY – The meeting was a little shorter than normal. Several regulars could not make the meeting including AF9A, who had a wedding anniversary that day..

Greg did get our banking accounts changed to digital and K9RU did purchase a 5% CD in the club account. Changing the account did take some effort by Gregg as he is listed as the contact person and the only one that can make changes to the account. The CD had similar problems as Jim purchased it, but our account required both Gregg and Jim to sign for that transaction. That took another phone call to get it corrected.

We did discuss Field Day the HF operation work out with a few issues but overall came off great.

The RCA ARC was responsible for the 6 meter operation and we setup Friday afternoon and 6 meters was great, working about 100 stations include 2 in Europe. We thought 6 meters would be a killer this year.

Saturday morning our first contact was Cuba and then the band progressively went dead before the start of FD. It ended up almost worked Indiana, we worked 86 but only 63 had the correct FD exchange and counted.

I want to thank everyone that came to FD, we had great support from club member and others that showed up to help man the operation.

Also a discussion and about the awesome 6 meter conditions during the June VHF contest.

It was good to see Dick Davis, W9ZB at the meeting who has been recovering from an operation.

Normal discussions about FT8 operating and DX on the air ended the meeting.

== Friends We'll Miss == Mike Jones, K9MJ, age 87, Shelbyville, IN, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on August 16. Mike got his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Physics from Indiana University. - Worked for Sarkes Tarzian in Bloomington, IN, General Electric in Liverpool, NY then RCA/Thomson in Indianapolis. Known for his wit, he was perpetually "TripleTerrific." Mike was a member of the RCA ARC. (Indiana ARRL Section Newsletter)

RCA ARC NEEDS A “NEW” AIR CONDITIONER – Our repeater shack needs a new air conditioner. Our present unit was donated to the Club in 2016 by Jon, KC9GUM. Thanks Jon, it has served well! If you'd like to donate one which still has some useful life in it, please contact Jim, K9RU. Thanks!

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION

Date: Saturday, September 9, 2023
Time: Starting at Noon **by appointment only.**
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility, 4020 Georgetown Rd
Indianapolis, IN 46254-2407
Contact: Jim Rinehart Ph:(317) 721-1458
Email: testing@indyradioclub.org
Required: FCC FRN and a completed NCVEC 605 license application form.

Laurel VEC test sessions: <https://www.laurelvec.com/?pg=exams>

HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Salvation Army Open Net, Thursday, 7PM, W9RCA repeater, 146.88 MHz, tone 88.5 HZ

Aug 26 - Sep 9 The Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association will be operating K9A in recognition of the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Festival in Auburn.
More details at: <http://www.w9ou.org/2023-k9a-special-event-stationaugust-26-september-9/>

Sept 9-11 ARRL Sept VHF Contest <http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf>

Sept 9- 10 WAE SSB <https://www.darc.de/der-club/referat/referat/worked-all-europe-dx-contest/en/>

Sept 16 New Castle Marathon The Henry County Amateur Radio Club will be providing communications for the New Castle Mini Marathon coming up on September 16.

Sept 23-24 CQ WW RTTY <https://www.cqwwrtty.com/>

Oct 28-29 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, phone

Nov 4-6 ARRL SS CW <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

Nov 18 -19 Ft Wayne Hamfest <http://www.acarts.com/hfmain.htm>

Nov 25-26 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW

WA7BNM expanded contest calendar, <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.htm>

Visit the **ARRL Special Event Stations database** at www.arrl.org/special-event-stations. to find other on-the-air events and commemorations.

FAIR RADIO SALES IN LIMA OHIO TO CLOSE

An iconic electronics surplus store will soon be closing its doors.

Phil Sellati, owner of [Fair Radio Sales](#) in Lima, Ohio, says it's time to close the business.

"I took over the business that my dad started in 1947, and after 50 years, it's time to close the doors," he said. Sellati has had an offer on the building and feels that it's time to move on.

There are 30,000 square feet of equipment and parts that all need to go. Sellati wants to be done with the business by October 2023, but he thinks it might take a little longer. He has even received suggestions to stay open for next year's Hamvention® in Xenia, Ohio.

Thousands of amateur radio operators, collectors, experimenters, and shortwave listeners have visited the store over the years. The shelves and aisles are full of old military radios and receivers. [The store's fall-winter 1967 catalog](#) lists a BC-499 FM 20 - 28 megacycle five-channel, crystal-controlled receiver with a dynamotor for \$18.95; a GO-9 Navy 100 W CW transmitter for \$69.95; along with pages of meters, cords, headphones, and microphones circa 1942.

Many Fair Radio Sales visitors started visiting when they were young, and they continue to shop there now. For one radio amateur, it was a must-stop location every year on their way to Dayton Hamvention. Another amateur radio operator said he stopped there in 1980 to pick up a Teletype Model 19 that still works today!

Sellati said he likes what he does and has enjoyed coming to work, but he wonders what comes next. He said he's thinking about looking for another building and starting over.

Editors notes: Since the 60s I have bought stuff from Fair Radio, VHF amplifiers and filters. The B, C and D band bandpass filters, which were popular with repeater owners and I still have some of them in my basement. I only visited the store once in the 70s and they had an unbelievable amount of stuff. I think Fair Radio maybe the last surplus store in the US and goes back to a time when many amateurs modified surplus gear to get on the air. One of the most popular was the BC-348 receiver and the ARC-5 transmitters. – Jim K9RU

ARRL FILES COMMENTS AGAINST “SERIOUSLY FLAWED” HF RULES PETITION

Editor's notes and comment:

The filing from the “Dayton Group,” mentioned in the ARRL filing below, is here:
<https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/10728091479549/1>

ARRL Central Division Director Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, presentation to the Madison DX Club: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WY0MsXpsiUs&t=156s>

A paper by David L Wilson, “Greater Chicago HF Trading Stations:”
http://www.udxf.nl/HF-Trading-Stations_03AUGL2023.pdf

An “outsiders viewpoint” by Alexander Osipovich published in the Wall Street Journal:
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/markets/ham-radio-enthusiasts-battle-high-frequency-traders-for-the-airwaves/ar-AA1ePt95>

Finally, this should be a “wakeup call” for ham radio! If this petition or something similar succeeds, and it probably will in one form another, HF spectrum may become prime real estate. The big \$\$\$ are behind this. As one who operates FT8 a lot, you don't have to look very far to see large amounts of spectrum within the existing ham bands which are largely unused. For example, look from the FT8 frequency down to the band edge. With the exception of a few weekend contests, you'll likely find only a handful of CW stations while 50 or more stations are seen within the 3kHz bandwidth dedicated to FT8. Some creative folks, a lot smarter than I am, need to come up a scheme to pack in a lot more CW-like signals, not using 1940s technology, into a much narrower band. Doing this with CW signals may be fairly easy, voice transmissions likely would be much more difficult. It could be only a matter of time until we start losing our current HF spectrum. Maybe folks are working on this and I just don't know it. --Jim AF9A

[ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®](#), as part of its mission to protect Amateur Radio, has [filed comments](#) against a proposal that would introduce high-power digital communications to the shortwave spectrum that in many instances is immediately adjacent to the Amateur HF bands.

The “Shortwave Modernization Coalition” (SMC), which represents certain high-frequency stock trading interests, filed [the petition](#) with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). **(Previous coverage can be found on [ARRL News](#).)** ARRL responded on behalf of its members and the 760,000 licensees of the Amateur Radio Service in the US.

The ARRL Laboratory performed a detailed technical analysis over several months to determine if the proposed rules would affect operations on the bands allocated to Radio Amateurs that are inter-mixed with the Part 90 bands in the spectrum in question.

ARRL’s analysis determined that, if the proposed rules are adopted, the new operations inevitably will cause significant harmful interference to many users of adjacent and nearby spectrum, including Amateur Radio licensees. Ed Hare, W1RFI, a 37-year veteran of the ARRL Lab and internationally recognized expert on radio frequency interference, was the principal investigator on the study. Hare concluded the petition should not be granted. “This petition seeks to put 50 kHz wide, 20,000-watt signals immediately next to seven different amateur bands with weaker protections against interference than required in other services,” said Hare.

In its formal opposition, ARRL stated, “That destructive interference would result if operations commenced using anything close to the proposed maximum levels.”

ARRL’s filed comments highlight flawed analysis and incomplete data submitted by the petitioners.

It noted the petitioners “...significantly understate the harmful interference that is not just likely, but certain, if the rules proposed by SMC are adopted as proposed. It is noteworthy that SMC’s proposed rules would provide less protection than the much-lower power amateur radio transmitters are required to provide Part 90 receivers.” ARRL’s opposition also noted that there was no reported tests conducted with Amateur or other affected stations, but referenced a spectrum capture in the Comments filed with the Dayton Group that showed actual interference into the Amateur 20-meter band from one of the High Frequency Trading experimental stations.

Part 90 HF rules currently authorize a maximum signal bandwidth equal to a voice communications channel, at up to 1000 W peak envelope power (PEP). The petition seeks multiplication of signal width, greater transmitted power, and weaker rules that protect users of adjacent spectrum. ARRL’s comments expose the likely fallout:

“Incredibly, notwithstanding the significant increase in potential interference that would result from using digital schemes with 50 kHz bandwidths and 20,000 watts of power, SMC also proposes to substantially lessen the protections required to protect adjacent and neighboring licensees. SMC proposes [out-of-band emissions] limits that offer less protection than the existing Part 90 limits and would actually permit no attenuation (0 dB) at the edge of adjacent allocations, many of which are bands allocated to and heavily used in the Amateur Radio Service. Consistent with lessening protections while increasing the potential for harmful interference, SMC also proposes a lower limit for spurious emissions. SMC would reduce the existing protection of -73 dB for the applicable 1000-watt power limit to just -50 dB protection for their proposed 20,000-watt limit. Due to the much wider 50 kHz proposed bandwidth, the resulting interference would penetrate deep into the adjacent Amateur bands.”

The proposal has been assigned FCC Docket No. RM-11953. While the period for commenting on the petition has now closed, replies to comments in the record may now be submitted.

Hundreds of licensed Radio Amateurs filed comments in the Docket, expressing overwhelming opposition to the proposal. Those interested may read ARRL’s full comments and the results of the technical analysis, which are included in the filing. “If granted as written, this would be

devastating to Amateur operation for many tens of kHz into our bands," said Hare.

ARRL will continue to advocate for its members and the Amateur Radio Service in this proceeding. --ARRL

AMATEUR RADIO RESPONDS TO DISASTERS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

[The fires](#) are out on the Hawaiian island of Maui but extensive search and rescue operations continue.

President Biden visited the island on Monday, August 21, 2023, and told residents the federal government will provide help "for as long as it takes" to recover from the devastation.

Numerous emergency response agencies and organizations are still arriving, and volunteers are helping to provide coordinated communications on the KH6COM repeater, on 146.520 MHz, and a VHF/UHF countywide system with emergency backup power. Hawaii has many amateur radio repeaters and an extensive internet-linked repeater system.

On the west coast of the United States, after a record amount of rainfall, [Hurricane Hilary](#) has downgraded to a tropical storm and is heading toward the Northeast. The west coast area is still experiencing flooding and mudslides as residents face major cleanup operations.

Section Manager of the ARRL Los Angeles Section Diana Feinberg, AI6DF, said there weren't any amateur radio activations, but Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service and ARES groups were on heightened alert. There was minimal damage in the Los Angeles A Basin area. Feinberg also said the City of Los Angeles Auxiliary Communications Service was activated and reported to the Emergency Operations Center, but there weren't any communication outages.

Section Manager of the ARRL Santa Barbara Section John Kitchens, NS6X, said there was more concern for the 5.1-magnitude earthquake that hit his area during the storms. "There were no actual activations, but we were ready. Our folks [took] advantage of the situation and turned it into a real-time drill," said Kitchens.

The [Hurricane Watch Net](#), [WX4NHC amateur radio station at the National Hurricane Center](#), and the [VoIP Hurricane Net](#) were activated on Sunday, August 20, for Hurricane Hilary. Despite having bilingual operators in each group, and the storm's impact to the Baja California peninsula, there weren't any reports from Mexico, much to the concern of net operators. WX4NHC Amateur Radio Assistant Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R, said, "Hurricanes have no borders and ham radio has no borders."

Ripoll encouraged Mexican stations to check in and pass along reports when the net was active. "We can work together to help each other and those affected by hurricanes," he said.

Tropical storm alerts were issued along the south Texas coast on Tuesday, August 22, as Tropical Depression 9 formed in the Gulf of Mexico. The storm's center moved inland over south Texas by midday, when it became Tropical Storm Harold. It caused rain and wind, but there was little to no damage. The South Texas Amateur Radio Club said their amateur radio operators were ready even though they were not activated.

While tropical storms and an earthquake impacted large portions of the country, much of the Pacific Northwest has been dealing with wildfires.

In eastern Washington, the [Spokane County ARES®/ACS](#) was activated to deploy a mobile network unit (MNU) to the Gray Fire on Friday, August 18. The MNU is a self-contained, satellite-based internet and cell (AT&T, Verizon, and T-Mobile) support system. Volunteers set up the gear at an incident command post used by county officials.

Radio amateurs are encouraged to participate in their local [ARES group](#). --ARRL

ARRL SEPTEMBER VHF CONTEST

The 2023 ARRL September VHF Contest begins on September 9 at 1800 UTC, and concludes on September 11 at 0259 UTC. Operation is allowed on any amateur frequency from 50 MHz to light. Complete rules are available at www.arrl.org/september-vhf.

ARRL has added an analog-only categories to the ARRL VHF contests, so users of digital modes might benefit by looking for analog-only participants to boost their score.

At the top and bottom of each hour, call CQ using one of the analog modes (eg: CW, SSB, and FM) around the weak signal calling frequencies in the VHF contests.

Higher-power single operator and multioperator stations are encouraged to adopt this practice, as this would give many of the low-power, portable, and rover operators more stations to contact. – ARRL Contest Newsletter

NEW ARRL VIDEO HELPS MEMBERS NAVIGATE DIGITAL MAGAZINES

ARRL members have [digital access](#) to four high quality magazines: *QST*, *On the Air*, *QEX*, and *NCJ*. If you have questions or concerns about how to get the most out of the digital editions, "How to View ARRL Magazines Digitally" on the ARRLHQ YouTube channel, will help walk you through it.

The video, hosted by Jherica Goodgame, KI5HTA, explores the features of the digital presentation including switching between magazines, saving to PDF, searching for content, bookmarkings, and zooming in to content. It covers the web browser version, as well as the Android and iOS applications.

If you download the ARRL magazines app for Android or iOS, ARRL will send a notification to your device when a new edition is available for reading. They are also available on Amazon Kindle.

The video can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/vmZfIC2IUls>

IARU APPROVES TWO DIGIPEATING AMATEUR SATELLITES

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has coordinated two European digipeating satellites that are scheduled to launch in fall 2023. At the Technical University of Košice in Slovakia, satellite Veronika, a 1U CubeSat, is scheduled for launch on a Falcon 9 launcher on the Transporter 9 mission in October 2023.

The satellite will be equipped with a 24/7 digipeater on two different bands, as well as experimental slow-scan digital video (SSDV) transmissions. There is an education and outreach mission planned to involve Slovak grammar and high schools, and to transmit special CW and AX.25 messages on several special occasions. The satellite will be equipped with a novel Attitude Determination and Control System (ADCS) subsystem, including electromagnetic actuators and a global navigation satellite system (GNSS) receiver. This will also help to identify the satellite during the first days and weeks of orbit.

The satellite will communicate using [Spacemanic's](#) well-known Murgas transceivers (BDSat-1, BDSat-2, Planetum-1). Altogether, Veronika will provide: AX.25 telemetry, a CW beacon, a digipeater, AX.25 and CW messages on special occasions for community engagement, experimental SSDV transmissions, [SatNOGS](#) integration, a decoder, and a dashboard. A

downlink on 436.680 MHz has been coordinated, and it will use 9k6 G3RUH AX.25 and a CW beacon. A SpaceX launch on the Transporter 9 mission will send the satellite to a 500/600-kilometer polar orbit.

The [Romanian Federation of Amateur Radio \(FRR\)](#) is preparing the ROM-3 for launch in October or November 2023. ROM-3 is a 50 x 50 x 100-millimeter picoSAT with three missions and objectives. Its primary mission is to act as a digital amateur radio repeater. Its secondary mission is to transmit low-resolution SSDV images in a Gaussian frequency shift keying (GFSK) mode. The tertiary mission is to transmit a CW beacon that will help amateur radio operators detect the presence of the satellite and measure basic properties of the signals, such as its strength, fading due to spinning, and Doppler to measure speed. A downlink on 436.235 MHz has been coordinated for 20 WPM on CW, 500 (bps) GFSK telemetry, and 5 (kBps) GFSK SSDV. A SpaceX launch will send ROM-3 into a 500-kilometer polar orbit.

AIR FORCE AND MARINES CORPS MARATHONS NEED AMATEUR RADIO VOLUNTEERS

This fall, amateur radio operators will have the opportunity to volunteer their services and share their communication skills at two different marathons.

The Air Force Marathon will occur on Saturday, September 16, on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio. The race will begin at 7:30 AM EDT.

Bob Baker, N8ADO, Greene County Emergency Communications Volunteer Lead, for Amateur Radio Support to the Air Force Marathon said, "We need a team of ham radio volunteers to support the event by operating several networks for logistics, [providing] medical information, monitoring and tracking runners, shadowing race officials, and supporting finish line operations."

He went on to say, "We need an excess of 60 volunteers to make all of this happen. Only 75% of the required number of volunteers have signed up and we could use amateur radio operators' help."

Most of the race takes place on the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and to comply with security regulations, all volunteer applications must be submitted by August 31, 2023, to allow for background checks.

To volunteer, visit usafmarathon.com/volunteer/ and click the "Volunteer Now button." You'll be redirected to the portal at raceroster.com, where you'll need to create an account. Once you've created an account, select "Volunteer," and sign in. Select the pull-down list under "Volunteer With Us," and then scroll down and select "Volunteer on Saturday, September 16, 2023." Continue to scroll down and fill out the required information.

Be sure to include your call sign in the appropriate box. Below that box, under "Amateur Radio Operator," click the "Add to Order box." Continue to the bottom of the web page and select your t-shirt size. Then, select "Continue" to submit your registration. Please report that you have signed in by sending a message with your name and call sign (and preferred email, if it's different from the account from which you send the message) to AFM.Hams@gmail.com

As the race date nears, you'll receive an invitation to a training session and a link to the training materials, assignment list, and communications plan. Please arrive by 5:30 AM to accommodate ID checks and road closures.

THE 2023 MARINE CORPS MARATHON (MCM)

The Marine Corps Marathon will take place on Sunday, October 29 in Washington, D.C., and Arlington County, Virginia at 7:55 AM EDT. The MCM Ham Volunteers team is looking for 150 amateur radio operators to support the event by providing racecourse situation reports.

The Marine Corps Marathon, also known as the People's Marathon, expects to support more than 29,000 runners at this year's event.

Amateurs can register to volunteer at www.hamcommunity.com/mcm-register.

The mission of the MCM is to showcase physical fitness and generate community goodwill to promote the high standards and discipline of the Marine Corps. Annually ranked as one of the largest marathons in the US and the world, the MCM has been recognized as the "Best Marathon in the Mid Atlantic," "Best for Families," and "Best for Beginners."

SHORTS

The 2023 W9DXCC Convention will be held on September 15, 2023 at the Marriott Hotel in Naperville Illinois. Please join us for a wonderful set of DX presentations and plenty of prize giveaways.

Registration for the convention will remain open through September 11. For more information and to register online, please visit: <https://w9dxcc.com>

Estate Planning - Have you thought about what your family would do if you passed on and left them with all your amateur radio gear? Now's the time to do some planning for that eventuality. The ARRL has an estate planning workbook and some worksheets available to help you: <https://www.arrl.org/estate-planning-workbook>

The 16th annual Ohio State Parks On The Air (OSPOTA) contest will be held on Saturday, September 9, 2023. This contest is always held on the first Saturday following the Labor Day holiday. This year, 75 Ohio state parks will be open for the event. Operating hours will be from 1400 UTC to 2200 UTC (10 AM to 6 PM ET). To sign up and read the full list of rules, visit OSPOTA.org.

The 3rd annual Masonic Lodges on the Air (MLotA), an amateur radio special event, will occur on Saturday, September 23, 2023, from locations across the United States. The event is open to all amateur radio operators. The idea for the event grew from the realization that many Freemasons also have a love for amateur radio. The [Fulton County Amateur Radio Club](#) and Ohio's Fulton Lodge #248 first hosted the event in 2021. The mission is to promote fraternal bonds within the ranks for Free and Accepted Masonic lodges and its many amateur radio operators, who are also brothers in the fraternity while encouraging contact with amateur radio operators around the state, county and world. The event will take place from 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM ET, on 80 - 40 - 20 -15, and 10 meters SSB. Amateur radio participants are asked to honor all band plans, and all contacts must be on the phone portion of the bands. Stations may be contacted once on each band. Complete contest rules and more information can be found at cqmorelight.com/rules

VEC - There has been an uptick in amateur applicants applying for licenses with Restricted Use FRN's. Currently, there are no EBF validations that will prevent the application from granting. However if a license is granted, the applicant will not be able to log into ULS License Manager to download their authorization or manage their license.

A standard FRN will start with leading zeros, while a Restricted Use FRN will start with 213. We are asking for your cooperation to identify Restricted Use FRN's before they are submitted. If you find that an applicant has a Restricted Use FRN, please instruct them to request a standard FRN in CORES and use the standard FRN when submitting their application. If an application is inadvertently submitted with a Restricted Use FRN and the license is issued please instruct your client to request a standard FRN, and contact the ULS Hotline to for assistance updating the FRN on their license.

We have also redesigned the ULS Support page with popular knowledge base articles to help applicants find help information related to CORES and filing processes. <https://www.fcc.gov/wtbhelp> Thank you for your cooperation, ULS EBF Team

THANKS FOR READING

THE RCA ARC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER IS COMPILED AND EDITED BY JIM RINEHART, K9RU
AND JIM KEETH, AF9A. ALL MATERIAL CONTAINED HEREIN IS OBTAINED FROM THE SOURCES
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